

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-14 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 3 and has not added or canceled any claims. Accordingly, claims 1-14 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

In the *Ex Parte Quayle* Office Action mailed April 16, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite for reciting the phrase "overlap at their ends like roof tiles." The Examiner also allowed claims 1, 2, and 5-14.

Applicant acknowledges with thanks the Examiner's allowance of claims 1, 2, and 5-14, as well as the indication of formality corrections necessary to place claims 3 and 4 in condition for allowance. In accordance with that indication, Applicant has amended claim 3 to remove the phrase "like roof tiles" and clarify the overlapping configuration of the segment components. Applicant has also amended claim 4 to be consistent with claim 3.

Applicant is also submitting concurrently herewith a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and an Identification of Copending Applications, and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate consideration of those papers in the next communication.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Serial No.: 10/560,578
Art Unit: 3764
Inventor: Yoshiaki SATO

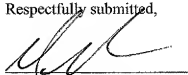
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Date: May 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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